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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-07
CU-02 /067 W
----------032237Z 011109 /63
R 021942Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5072
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TORONTO 0513

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CA
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU AND ONTARIO GOVERNMENT AT ODDS OVER QUEEN'S VISIT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. TORONTO STAR COLUMNIST JOHATHAN MANTHORPE DEVOTED HIS MARCH 2 COLUMN "PM AND PREMIER GET INTO A ROYAL STAND-OFF" TO THE APPARENT CONFLICT BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND ONTARIO PREMIER DAVIS REGARDING QUEEN ELIZABETH'S SILVER JUBILEE VISIT TO CANADA. ACCORDING TO MANTHORPE, DAVIS MADE HIS VIEWS KNOWN TO TRUDEAU DURING THEIR PRIVATE BREAKFAST MEETING IN TORONTO A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO. THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR THE SILVER JUBILEE VITIST APPARENTLY INVOLVED A MONTH'S STAY IN CANADA AND VISITS TO ONTARIO, NEWFOUNDLAND, SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA. TRUDEAU HAS PROPOSED INSTEAD A 4-DAY VISIT TO OTTAWA-HULL. WHEN HE RAISED THE MATTER WITH TRUDEAU, DAVIS WAS TOLD, ACCORIND TO MANTHORPE, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER "DIDN'T FEEL 'IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY AT THIS TIME' FOR THE QUEEN TO MAKE AN EXTENDED VISIT."

2. THE COLUMN POINTED OUT THAT THE PREMIERS OF THE PROVINCES EXPECTING A ROYAL VISIT IN 1977 HAD BEEN MORE OR LESS TOLD OF THE QUEEN'S ORIGINAL PLANS DURING THEIR MEETING WITH HER IN KINGSTON LAST SUMMER AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES. MANTHORPE BELIEVES
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DAVIS IS PARTICULARLY UPSET ABOUT THE ISSUE, BEING A STANCH MONARCHIST, AND WROTE "IT IS WELL KNOWN BY NOW THAT TRUDEAU AND DAVIS HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME BEING CIVIL TO ONE ANOTHER AND THAT THEY DISAGREE FUNDAMENTALLY ON APPROACHES TO MANY CURRENT POLICY ISSUES. BUT EVEN ON THAT SCALE OF ANIMOSITY AND COMPETION THE QUESTIONOF THE QUEEN'S VISIT LOOMS LARGE." END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. COMMENT: I QUERIED WALTER BOROSA, ONTARIO GOVERNMENT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, ON THE MANTHORPE ARTICLE AT A RECEPTION AT MY RESIDENCE MARCH 2. WHILE HE AVOIDED CONFIRMING THE ARTICLE, HE NOTED THAT THE MANTHORPE PIECE WAS A VERY GOOD ONE AND THAT THEPROPOSAL MADE BY OTTAWA FOR THE QUEEN'S VISIT WAS COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS. BOROSA SAID THAT THE ORIGINAL PLANS CALLED FOR THE QUEEN TO VISIT PARTS OF CANADA NOT VISITED DURING THE OLYMPICS, THAT AS FAR AS ONTARION AND QUEBEC WENT, SHE WOULD BE VISITING ONLY OTTAWA-HULL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION AND STAY ONLY ONE ONE DAY IN TORONTO, THE HEART OF OLD LOYALIST COUNTRY. HE FELT QUITE STRONGLY THAT IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE VISIT WOULD BE IN THE PRAIRIES AND BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THAT THE 4 TO 6 DAYS BEING SUGGESTED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE OTTAWA-HULL REGION, WHILE NOT A SUFFICIENT LENGTH OF TIME IN CANADA AS A WHOLE CONSIDERING THE TIME THE QUEEN IS SPENCING IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, WOULD STILL BE HARD TO FILL, "EVEN IF THE QUEEN KISSED EVERY BABY IN OTTAWA." BOROSA WAS THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE OLYMPIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AT THE SUMMER GAMES SAILING SITE IN KIGSTON, ONTARIO, AND WAS VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN THAT ROYAL VISIT AND IN THE MEETING OF THE CANADIAN PROVINCIAL PREMIERS WITH THE QUEEN WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THAT OCCASION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TORONT00513
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770074-0147
Format: TEL
From: TORONTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770399/aaaadjnn.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c0bad7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3225264
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRUDEAU AND ONTARIO GOVERNMENT AT ODDS OVER QUEEN\'S VISIT
TAGS: PGOV, CA, UK, (TRUDEAU, PIERRE-ELLIOTT), (ELIZABETH II)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c0bad7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009